

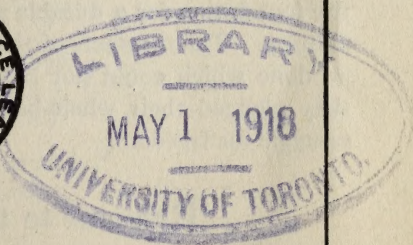
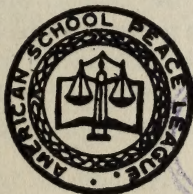
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American School Peace League

A STATEMENT OF THE POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE AMERICAN SCHOOL PEACE LEAGUE DURING THE WAR.

We entered this war because violations of right had occurred which touched us to the quick and made the life of our own people impossible unless they were corrected and the world secured once for all against their recurrence. What we demand in this war, therefore, is nothing peculiar to ourselves. It is that the world be made fit and safe to live in; and particularly that it be made safe for every peace-loving nation which, like our own, wishes to live its own life, determine its own institutions, be assured of justice and fair dealing by the other peoples of the world as against force and selfish aggression. All the peoples of the world are, in effect, partners in this interest, and for our own part we see very clearly that unless justice be done to others it will not be done to us.

—From President Wilson's Address to Congress,
January 8, 1918.



405 Marlborough Street, Boston,
March, Nineteen Eighteen.

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A Call to Patriotic Service.

A few days after the United States declared war on the Imperial German Government, the Secretary of the American School Peace League issued "A Call to Patriotic Service," addressed to the Teachers of the United States. This call included the Program of the League during the war:

To maintain a civic and moral stability among the youth of the country.

To inspire anew a love of American institutions and American ideals.

To foster civic service appropriate to youth, consciously entered upon for the nation's welfare.

To hold to the ideal of the ultimate triumph of democracy.

Co-operation with the Government.

Early in the autumn of 1917, the Executive Committee of the American School Peace League announced its policy to co-operate with the President in his aim to safeguard the principle of democracy throughout the world. In taking this stand, the Committee acted in line with the general aim of the League, which has always been to lay the foundation for a durable peace, for which the United States is now fighting. The members of the Committee asserted that nothing should be done which could not be endorsed by the State Department, and they pledged their whole-hearted support to the Government in this struggle for freedom.

Response to the President's Appeal.

The League responded to the letter of President Wilson, addressed to School Officers on August 23, 1917, in which the President appealed for such teaching in the schools as would give "a new appreciation of the problems of national life and a deeper understanding of the meaning and aims of democracy." Under the title, "A Plan to Co-operate with President Wilson in the Project outlined in his Letter to

School Officers on August 23, 1917," the League issued the announcement of its Prize Essay Contest to the secondary and normal schools of the country, the subject for the secondary schools being, "How should the World be Organized so as to Prevent Wars in the Future"; and that for the normal schools, "The Teaching of Democracy as a Factor in a League of Nations." In sending out this announcement, the League asked that the essay contest be incorporated into the regular work of the school with the distinct aim of co-operating with the President. Practically every state in the Union is represented in this patriotic work, and many hundreds of schools have introduced this study as an integral part of the school program.

Information on the Issues of the War.

The League now calls on the teachers of the country to help the Government's Committee on Public Information in its great effort to enlighten the Nation on the real meaning of the war. There is no class of citizens who have more responsibility in keeping the issues clear than the instructors of youth. Teachers should not allow imperfect or inaccurate ideas to find lodgment in the pupils' minds. Material giving accurate and discriminating information on the war has been prepared by the Committee on Public Information, and this should find its way to every teacher in the land. It should be the official guide of the teacher, for the school represents the coming Nation.

Teachers' War-Time Meetings.

With the approval of the Committee on Public Information, the League is asking the School Board of each city and town in the country to arrange at least one teachers' meeting, where a speaker will present the Issues of the War, as set forth in the following publications of the Committee on Public Information:

"How the War Came to America."

The President's Address of January 22, 1917.

The President's War Message, April 2, 1917.

The Flag Day Address, June 14, 1917.

"The War Message and the Facts Behind It."

The President's Message Annotated.

"The Nation in Arms."

By Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of Interior,
and Newton D. Baker, Secretary of War.

"The German Government."

By Charles D. Hazen.

"The Great War: From Spectator to Participant."

By Andrew C. McLaughlin.

Superintendent Condon represents the League on the Advisory Committee to the Speaking Division of the Committee on Public Information.

State Speakers' Bureau

The Speaking Division of the Committee on Public Information has recommended to the Council of Defense in each state that the Commissioner of Education should be a member of the State Speakers' Bureau, and in many states there is a close relationship between these two agencies. It is suggested that School Boards apply to the Speakers' Bureau of the State Council of Defense for speakers. As Commissioner Finley says, the school should be "a center for accurate information about the war, information about government needs, information about opportunities and duties for personal patriotic service."

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